

News Release



Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TARGET ROCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BEACH CLEANUP

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is asking the community for help in keeping Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge's beaches in Huntington clean. On September 24 at 2pm volunteers will be welcomed with trash bags, data cards, and smiles. Roll up your sleeves and join us for some good, clean fun! The event takes place in conjunction with The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, a worldwide effort to rid our coastal habitats of unsightly and potentially dangerous trash. Data collected from the cleanup will be used to devise strategies to combat pollution. Cleanup sites throughout New York are coordinated by the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society.

"Target Rock is a special place not only to wildlife but to the people who are attracted to its beauty. A clean beach ensures a healthy habitat for all," said Refuge Manager Deborah Long. "The International Coastal Cleanup is important because it not only removes the trash but works to find long-term solutions. The public plays the most vital role in this process. Public awareness of the problem and participation in the solution is the key. In fact, the Target Rock cleanup began with concerned citizens Rachel Frankel and Chris Anastos who took it upon themselves to make a difference in their community and set an example for their children."

For a successful day, be sure to bring work gloves, sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. Wear a hat and appropriate shoes (no bare feet). In case of inclement weather, the cleanup will be postponed to September 30 at 2pm (check at the refuge's information kiosk). The refuge's entrance fee will be waived for all visitors on the day of the cleanup.

Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge is part of the larger National Wildlife Refuge System which consists of 545 wildlife refuges throughout the United States. Created specifically to provide habitat for migratory birds, the refuge boasts an impressive variety of songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl throughout the year. Located on the Atlantic flyway, a major bird migration highway, Long Island plays a vital role in the lives of birds that need wintering and nesting habitat as well as rest stops along the way. Because of its importance to wildlife, Long Island features 8 national wildlife refuges and a wildlife management area.

For more information about Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge or other Long Island National Wildlife Refuges, visit <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges> or call 631-286-0485.